

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 3 and 11. Please add new Claims 17 and 18. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

-
1. (canceled)
 2. (canceled)
 3. (currently amended) A microscope slide stainer comprising:
 - a slide housing into which at least one microscope slide is inserted, said housing having a cavity into which liquids are dispensed, the cavity containing a sufficient volume of liquid to cover the at least one microscope slide;
 - a liquid dispenser, said dispenser and slide housing being capable of movement relative to each other under microprocessor control so as to align the dispenser with a slide; and
 - a liquid aspirator, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the cavity.
 4. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a slide carrier capable of moving the slide that is contained in the slide housing.
 5. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the slide housing.
 6. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.

7. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a pressurized rinse bottle from which rinse fluid is dispensed into the cavity of said slide housing.
8. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a heater capable of heating the slide that is contained in the slide housing.
9. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heating element is adjacent to the slide.
10. (previously presented) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3, wherein the liquid aspirator comprises:
a vacuum bottle;
a vacuum hose extending from the vacuum bottle; and
a vacuum hose transport mechanism for bringing the end of the vacuum hose to the cavity in the slide housing.
11. (currently amended) A method of staining slides comprising:
inserting a slide into a slide housing, said housing having a cavity into which liquids can be dispensed, the cavity containing a sufficient volume of liquid to cover the at least one microscope slide;
moving the slide housing and a liquid dispenser relative to each other under microprocessor control into alignment ~~with a liquid dispenser~~;
dispensing liquid into the cavity of said housing, said liquid also contacting said slide; and
aspirating liquid from the cavity of said housing.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the liquid is aspirated from the cavity of said housing by extending a vacuum hose to the cavity and collecting the liquid into a vacuum bottle.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising heating the slide contained in the slide housing.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising heating the slide contained in the slide housing.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising moving a slide that is contained in a slide housing.
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising adding rinse fluid from a pressurized rinse bottle.
17. (new) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of moving the slide housing and a liquid aspirator relative to each other prior to aspirating liquid from the cavity of said housing.
18. (new) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 3 wherein the slide housing and liquid aspirator are capable of relative movement under microprocessor control so as to align the aspirator with a slide.
- 